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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1944

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S.Devon.

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2246

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Council Offices,
Plympton.

Manor House,
Kingsbridge.

Clerk to M.O.H.
Miss Prowse.

Clerk to M.O.H.
Miss Hendrickson.

Telephone: Plympton 2244

Telephone: Kingsbridge 2004

SANITARY INSPECTORS

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S.Devon.

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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year, 1944.

Medical Officer of Health: DR.W.C.SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health: DR.W.H.COOPER, M.B., B.C.H., B.A.O.
Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector: MR.N.C.HARRIS, A.I.A.S., C.R.S.I.,
Second Sanitary Inspector: MR.A.E.SMITH, Inspector of Meat and Foods.
Temporary Sanitary Inspector: MR.W.CHALCRAFT, M.S.I.A.
MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the Year, 1944.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area - 70,818 acres.

Population - 9,605.

Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1944, according to the
Rate Book - 3,857.

Number of Unoccupied Houses - 54

Rateable Value - £55,632.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate - £239,16.8.

The area is mainly an agricultural one, although on the coast-
line many of the inhabitants are employed in sea-faring pursuits.

There is an annual influx of visitors during the holiday season
over the whole of the district, to which they are attracted by the
favourable climate and the beauty of the surroundings.

The conditions of employment and environs are conducive to health
and longevity.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

Legitimate: Male, 79	Female, 76	Total	155
Illegitimate; Male, <u>4</u>	Female, <u>7</u>	Total	<u>11</u>
83	83		166

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 17.28

STILL BIRTHS - Male, 1. Female, 1. Total, 2.

Rate per 1,000 of the total (live and still) births - 11.90

DEATHS - 146

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 15.20

Deaths from Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis - Nil.
Deaths from other maternal causes - Nil.

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

- (a) All infants per 1,000 live births:- 18.07
- (b) Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births:- 12.90
- (c) Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births:- 90.90

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - 16
Deaths from Measles (all ages) - Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - 2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) - Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1944.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases notified</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	23	13	-
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	3	1
Erysipelas	4	2	-
Whooping Cough	7	7	-
Measles	1	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-
Malaria	1	-	-
Dysentery	1	1	1
Chicken pox	1	-	-
<u>TOTALS.</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>2</u>

13 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Modbury Isolation Hospital. The diagnosis in one case was changed to Rubella. 2 cases were dealt with under the Government Evacuation Scheme and 1 was a military case.

The Diphtheria case was admitted to the Modbury Isolation Hospital, but the diagnosis was changed to Tonsillitis.

The 3 cases of C.S.M. were admitted to Swilly Isolation Hospital.

1 case of Erysipelas was admitted to Modbury Isolation Hospital and 1 case to the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Plymouth.

The case of Dysentery was admitted to the Swilly Isolation Hospital and later transferred to the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Plymouth.

7 cases of Whooping Cough were admitted to the Modbury Isolation Hospital and were dealt with under the Government Evacuation Scheme.

AMBULANCES For infectious cases an ambulance is now available and is located at Modbury.

For non-infectious cases and accidents, the St. John Ambulance Association provide an ambulance.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 years	4	5	-	-	1	1	-	-
25 - 35 years	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65 years	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	6	8	-	-	3	1	-	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. 256 children were fully protected during the year and 61 children received one injection only.

With the movement of child population there is difficulty in accurately estimating the percentage of children protected, but it is estimated that 52% of the children under five years and 77% of the children of school age have now been protected.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of Plympton Rural District, Kingsbridge Urban District, Salcombe Urban District, Kingsbridge & Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority and Kingsbridge & Salcombe Water Board)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional)

Two whole-time Sanitary Inspectors.

LABORATORY FACILITIES are provided by the County Council for the examination of milk and water in addition to the usual bacteriological examinations. Seale Hayne College also examines milk samples in cases of suspected mastitis. Urgent bacteriological specimens may be sent to the laboratory at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Plymouth.

PROVISION OF ANTITOXIN. Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of antitoxin. Material is also supplied for the immunisation of children of the district against Diphtheria free of cost.

LIST OF PUBLIC VACCINATORS. KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

Name of Parishes.

Name of Public Vaccinators.

Charleton, Aveton Gifford,
Modbury, Bigbury, Kingston
and Ringmore.

Dr. W. H. Cowper,
Kingsbridge.

Blackawton and Stokefleming.

Dr. J. H. Broderick,
33, Victoria Road,
Dartmouth.

Churchstow, South Milton,
Thurlestone, W. Alvington,
Buckland-tout-Saints, East
Allington, Loddiswell and
Woodleigh.

Dr. W. G. Verniquet,
Barnfield,
Kingsbridge.

List of Public Vaccinators - Kingsbridge Rural District.

Continued:-

Name of Parishes.

Name of Public Vaccinator.

Chivelstone, Sherford,
Slapton, South Pool and
Stokenham.

Dr.W.H.Simonds,
Chillington.

E.Portlemouth, Malborough,
and South Huish.

Dr.R.H.Dummett,
Homeleigh,
Salcombe.

Vaccination Officer - Mr.H.S.Smith.

NURSING IN THE HOME None provided by this Authority, but the County Council employs Health Visitors in the district. There are seven District Nurses whose services are of greatest value in the Rural District.

MIDWIVES. The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council. There are five practising midwives in the district.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE. There is a centre in Kingsbridge which is open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in each month.

VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT. At the Venereal Disease Dept., City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre or to the County Medical Officer.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the County Council, and Ministry of Health. There is one such practitioner at Modbury and another at Kingsbridge.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Association for Orthopaedics as In-Patients at Exeter and Ivybridge; and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. For Out-Patients there is a clinic at Kingsbridge and the South West Clinic which deals with this district as well is held at the Mutley Hall Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provides beds for 16 patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding districts:-

Men's ward	...	6 beds
Women's ward	...	6 beds
Children's Cots	...	2
Private wards	...	2 (1 bed each)

It is supported by voluntary effort.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL. There is an Auxiliary Isolation Hospital at Modbury, and by arrangement with the Plymouth City Council, some infectious cases requiring hospital treatment may be sent to Swilly Isolation Hospital, Plymouth.

STAFF Mr.B.Adams joined the staff of the Public Health Department on the 1st September, 1943 as a pupil.

Mr.W.T.Maddick joined the staff of the Public Health Department on the 1st December, 1944, for the purpose of conducting the Rural Housing Survey.

Mr.W.Chalcraft joined the staff of the Public Health Department on the 1st January, 1944 as Temporary additional Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

SCHOOLS. There are 19 Elementary Schools in the District. Inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and in cases requiring further attention by the Medical Officer of Health.

During the year 21 notices were received referring to 50 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts.

They were as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	12
Chicken pox	1
German Measles	3
Whooping Cough	26
Mumps	1
Ringworm	1
Scabies	4
C.S.F.	2

WATER Certain portions of the district are supplied from the mains of the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board namely:- Aveton Gifford, Buckland-tout-Saints, East Prawle, Loddiswell, Modbury, Sherford, South Milton, part of Thurlestone and West Alvington.

This provides a pure and satisfactory supply to the Parishes named. Approximately 585 have a piped water supply on to the house, and 274 houses draw their water from standpipes.

The remainder of the district rely on local springs and wells viz:- Bigbury, Blackawton, Charleton, East and West, Churchstow, East Allington, East Portlemouth, Kingston, Malborough, Ringmore, Slapton, Stokenham, Hope, South Pool, Stokefleming, Strete and Woodleigh. In most cases these supplies are unsatisfactory as to quantity, especially during a dry period. Large distribution extensions from the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board mains were contemplated before the war and have been given a high priority for post-war work to be undertaken by the Council. When these extensions are complete, most of the district will be well supplied with water.

Approximately 600 have a piped water supply to the house, and 400 houses take their water from standpipes.

The parts of the district supplied with water from the Kingsbridge & Salcombe Water Board are provided with an excellent supply both in quality and quantity.

Bacteriological examinations of the raw water are made by the Water Board; seven samples of water going into supply were found on analysis to be satisfactory.

No trace of lead was detected.

The moorland supply is chlorinated.

The parts of the district dependent on local water supplies are the source of frequent complaints and difficulties owing to the generally unsatisfactory local water supplies. Large extensions of the mains of the Water Board and Council's distribution mains are contemplated.

BIGBURY VILLAGE WATER SUPPLY. Owing to corrosive pipes a shortage of water occurred in this village. This has now been remedied by replacing the defective pipes with new.

SHERFORD VILLAGE SUPPLY. The existing supply having been reported on as unfit for drinking, the Council decided to cut this off, and supply the village from standpipes connected to the High Pressure Main which was laid to supply Sherford Reservoir. Three standpipes were erected in convenient positions. In addition to this three houses have taken the water in.

EAST PRATTLE SCHOOL DRAINAGE. In order that the drainage of this school can be disposed of in a proper manner, the Council have accepted a scheme for extending the 6" public sewer for a distance of 280 yards. If the scheme is carried out in addition to connecting the School several existing drains from houses can be connected thereto, and it will also provide for the drainage of houses which may be erected in the future along the route of the extension.

THURLESTONE SEWER(Sea outfall) About sixty feet of this sewer has been damaged by rough seas, and arrangements have been made to replace the damaged pipes as soon as circumstances permit.

LATE BATTLE TRAINING AREA. The whole of the water and sewerage systems in this area were thoroughly overhauled, before the houses were reoccupied. Very little damage was done to public services, but precautions were taken to have all reservoirs and water tanks thoroughly cleansed out and chlorinated. The mains and pipes were also washed out with chloris. The Council offered to have the water from any private supply analysed free of charge. Very little advantage was taken of this, about fifteen samples in all being analysed. The reports were passed on to the proper Authorities, when steps were taken to put the supply in as safe a condition as possible where an adverse report was received.

PETROL LICENCES. 19 licences were issued or renewed during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES. One offensive Trade, that of a Fellmonger, is carried on in the district. It has been regularly inspected and has given no cause for complaint.

NUISANCES. 66 complaints were received and these were dealt with and remedied without the necessity of serving notices.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS. There are 680 dairies and cowsheds in the area, 176 of which were inspected during the year.

32 samples of milk were taken by this Council, all of which were from accredited producers and of these 25 passed and 7 failed.

The number of accredited milk producers on the list is 7.

UN SOUND FOOD. 12 cwt. 3 qr. 1 lb. 11 ozs. of Meat Offal and Tinned Food were surrendered and destroyed during the year as being unfit for human consumption.

BAKEHOUSES. 16 Bakehouses are on the register and they are all in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES. There are in the district 21 slaughterhouses, These slaughterhouses are not used at present.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W.C.SMALES.

Medical Officer of Health.